



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

**CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE YOUTHS IN THE UK ON THEIR
ISLAMIC PRACTICES**

Before we address the challenges affecting the youths in the UK, we need to understand the following principles in Islam.

1. Allah has Promised us Guidance

"(Allah) said: "Get you down (from the Paradise to the earth), both of you, together, some of you are an enemy to some others. Then if there comes to you guidance from Me, then whoever follows My Guidance shall neither go astray, nor fall into distress and misery. But whosoever turns away from My Reminder (i.e. neither believes in this Qur'an nor acts on its orders, etc.) verily, for him is a life of hardship, and We shall raise him up blind on the Day of Resurrection." 20: 123-124

- Qur'an
- Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam)
- Our faculties - eyes

There is no compulsion in religion. Verily, the Right Path has become distinct from the wrong path. Whoever disbelieves in Taghut and believes in Allah, then he has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that will never break. And Allah is All-Hearer, All-Knower. 2: 256

2. Purpose of life

And I (Allah) created not the jinns and humans except they should worship Me (Alone) 51: 56

O mankind! Worship your Lord (Allah), Who created you and those who were before you so that you may become Al-Muttaqun 2: 21

'Ibaadah (worship) in Arabic means submission and humbling oneself. The Arabs use the phrase tareeq mu'abbad to describe a smooth path which has been become smooth because so many feet have walked on it.

In Islamic terminology the word 'ibaadah is used in two senses:

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1 - The actions of a person, such as praying or paying zakaah, which are described as 'ibaadah. The scholars defined it as follows:

It means obeying Allaah by doing that which He has commanded and avoiding that which He has forbidden, whilst loving Allaah, fearing Him and putting one's hopes in Him.

2 - It also refers to the action itself in abstract terms, such as prayer, zakaah, etc. The scholars defined it as follows:

This is a comprehensive word which includes all word and deeds that Allaah loves and is pleased with, both outward and inward.

These enjoined actions are called 'ibaadaat (acts of worship) because people do them in humility and with love for their Lord. In worshipping Allaah there has to be complete love as well as complete submission to Him.

Our Lord has told us that the ultimate purpose behind the creation of the jinn and mankind is so that they will worship Him alone with no partner or associate.

3. Islam means complete submission

Islam is the name of the final revelation that forms the last of many in a sequence spanning the ages since the dawn of humanity. The word Islam comes from the Arabic root *silim*, from which a number of different, yet somehow related words originate. Although the word *salam* (meaning peace) is what Muslims associate with Islam and indeed all heavenly religions, the two most recent of which being Judaism and Christianity, the conditions for adherence to Islam however, imply another more important meaning, namely the total submission (*tasleem*) to the Will of Allah. In other words, although Islam is all about peace even when it participate in a war since this is also aimed at keeping peace, what really lies at the heart of this religion and indeed in every true monotheistic heavenly faith is to give in to the Will of Allah, the All-knowing, the Wise.

"No believing man nor any believing woman should exercise any choice in their affair once Allah and His messenger have decided upon some matter. Anyone who disobeys Allah and His messenger has wandered off into manifest error" - (33:36).

4. There is no compromise in Islam

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Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight ... are dearer to you than Allah and His Messenger, and striving hard and fighting in His Cause, then wait until Allah brings about His Decision (torment). And Allah guides not the people who are Al-Fasiqun (the rebellious, disobedient to Allah). Qur'an 9: 24

"This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (Qur'an 5:3)

"It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, he has indeed strayed in a plain error." (Qur'an 33:36)

Surah al -Kafirun is a prime example of this: "Say: "Disbelievers! I do not worship what you worship, nor do you worship what I worship. I shall never worship what you worship, neither will you worship what I worship. You have your own religion and I have mine." (Qur'an 109)

"Say you (O Muhammad): 'This is my way; I invite unto Allah with sure knowledge, I and whosoever follows me with sure knowledge. And Glorified and Exalted be Allah. And I am not of the Mushrikun.'" (Qur'an 12:108)

"And verily, this is my Straight Path, so follow it, and follow not other paths, for they will separate you away from His path. This He has ordained for you that you may become pious." (Qur'an 6:153)

"Enter into the fold of Islam completely, and follow not the footsteps of the Shaytan." [Qur'an Al-Baqarah:208]

5. Islam is a way of life
 - Not just confined to the mosque, Ramadan, prayers, etc.
 - 24 hours a day, we submit to Allah

6. Importance of understanding Islam and not taking it as a ritual
 - Islam must be understood
 - Qur'an must be read with understanding and pondering over the verses
 - Prayer must be enjoyed and done with understanding what we communicate to Allah

7. Life is short and death is impending

"Verily, Allah! With Him (Alone) is the knowledge of the Hour, He sends down the rain, and knows that which is in the wombs. No person knows what

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he will earn tomorrow, and no person knows in what land he will die. Verily, Allah is All-Knower, All-Aware (of things)" [31:34].

"Allah takes souls at the time of their death and [the souls] of those that do not die during their sleep. He retains those souls for which He has ordained death, whereas He releases the rest for an appointed term." 39:42

"If you could see when the wrongdoers taste the pangs of death and the angels stretch their hands out, [saying], 'Deliver up your souls. This day you will be awarded a degrading punishment.' " 6:93

8. Accountability on the Day of Judgment

O you who believe! Fear Allah and keep your duty to Him. And let every person look to what he has sent forth for the morrow, and fear Allah. Verily, Allah is All-Aware of what you do. And be not like those who forgot Allah (i.e. became disobedient to Allah) and He caused them to forget their own selves, (let them to forget to do righteous deeds). Those are the Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah). 59: 18-19

So whoever hopes for the Meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." 18:110

"Verily, to Us will be their return; Then verily, for Us will be their reckoning." 88: 25-26

"{Whoever chooses to follow the right path, follows it but for his own good; and whoever goes astray, goes but astray to his own loss; and no bearer of burdens shall be made to bear another's burden}" (17:15)

9. Children is a trust from Allah to every parents – accountability on the Day of Judgment

"O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones..." [Quran 66:6]

Advice of Luqman to his son:

1. Not to ascribe divine powers to anything other than Allah.
2. To be good and kind to parents.
3. To obey parents unless they command what is wrong.
4. To understand that all our deeds, however minor, are recorded and will be brought to light.
5. To be constant in prayer.
6. To enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong.

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7. To bear what befalls him with patience.
8. To avoid pride, arrogance and boastfulness.
9. To be modest in manner and speech.

31: 13-19

10. Balancing dunya and akhirah

But seek, with that (wealth) which Allah has bestowed on you, the home of the Hereafter, and forget not your portion of legal enjoyment in this world, and do good as Allah has been good to you, and seek not mischief in the land. Verily, Allah likes not the Mufsidun (those who commit great crimes and sins, oppressors, tyrants, mischief-makers, corrupts). 28: 77

"...But of mankind there are some who say: "Our Lord! Give us (Your Bounties) in this world!" and for such there will be no portion in the Hereafter.

And of them there are some who say: "Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!"

For them there will be allotted a share for what they have earned. And Allah is Swift at reckoning." 2: 200-202

Challenges facing the youths in the West

1. Competing and focussing on academic success
2. Secularism
3. Crime and violence
4. Negative media
5. Social network
6. Identity crisis
7. Discrimination
8. Bad examples from parents and at home

SOLUTIONS FOR THESE PROBLEMS

1. Good upbringing from parents
2. Good examples at home
3. Religious classes at early age
4. Make the youths understand the Deen and make it interesting

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5. Start to pray according to the sunnah
6. Parents must check on the social media
7. Stop using games/internet as a means to make them behave
8. Communications
9. Check on their companions
10. Check on their school work and show encouragement
11. Set up good Islamic role models – prophets and sahabah rather than football celebrities
12. Parents must be strict when you need to
13. Understand that every child is different
14. Success is not just through education in schools
15. Do NOT follow the west and their celebrations such as Christmas, halloween, birthdays, etc
16. Do not marry too late